

What is claimed is:

1. In a demodulator suitable for converting television signals to video baseband signals and audio baseband signals including stereo signals representing a right channel signal value and a left channel signal value, a method of improving stereo separation of the stereo signals comprising:

converting at least the audio baseband signals to corresponding digital signals;

scaling the digital signals according to at least one coefficient having a series of different coefficient values;

generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series of first digital signals corresponding to the right channel signal value;

generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series of second digital signals corresponding to the left channel signal value;

generating a series of separation signals representing the stereo separation represented by the series of first digital signals and the series of second digital signals;

storing the separation signal representing the largest stereo separation as a preferred coefficient value; and

scaling the digital signals according to the preferred coefficient value.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio baseband signals comprise audio baseband signals according to the BTSC standard.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the right channel signal value and left channel signal value comprises a zero value.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the scaling comprises multiplying.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said scaling the test digital signals according to at least one coefficient having a series of different coefficient values comprises varying the coefficient values.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the right channel signal value comprises a first amplitude value and wherein the left channel signal value comprises a second amplitude value.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said generating a series of separation signals comprises determining the difference between the first amplitude value and the second amplitude value in each of the series of first digital signals and second digital signals.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said converting comprises converting at a sampling rate exceeding 300 KHz.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the television test signal comprises the sum of the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value and the difference between the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value and wherein said generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series of first digital signals corresponding to the right channel signal value and generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of

coefficient values a series of second digital signals corresponding to the left channel signal value comprise:

decoding the sum of the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value; and

decoding the difference between the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the right channel signal value and a left channel signal value form part of a television test signal.

11. A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program which when executed by a computer enables improved stereo separation of stereo signals representing a right channel signal value and a left channel signal value converted to corresponding digital signals by causing the computer to perform a method comprising:

scaling the digital signals according to at least one coefficient having a series of different coefficient values;

generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a

series of first digital signals corresponding to the right channel signal value;

generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series of second digital signals corresponding to the left channel signal value;

generating a series of separation signals representing the stereo separation represented by the series of first digital signals and the series of second digital signals;

storing the separation signal representing the largest stereo separation as a preferred coefficient value; and

scaling the digital signals according to the preferred coefficient value.

12. The medium of claim 11 wherein stereo signals form part of audio baseband signals according to the BTSC standard.

13. The medium of claim 11 wherein one of the right channel signal value and left channel signal value comprises a zero value.

14. The medium of claim 11 wherein the scaling comprises multiplying.

15. The medium of claim 11 wherein said scaling the digital signals according to at least one coefficient having a series of different coefficient values comprises varying the coefficient values.

16. The medium of claim 11 wherein the right channel signal value comprises a first amplitude value and wherein the left channel signal value comprises a second amplitude value.

17. The medium of claim 16 wherein said generating a series of separation signals comprises determining the difference between the first amplitude value and the second amplitude value in each of the series of first digital signals and second digital signals.

18. The medium of claim 11 wherein the stereo signals comprise the sum of the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value and the difference between the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value and wherein said generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series

of first digital signals corresponding to the right channel signal value and generating in response to the digital signals scaled according to the series of coefficient values a series of second digital signals corresponding to the left channel signal value comprise:

decoding the sum of the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value; and

decoding the difference between the right channel signal value and the left channel signal value.